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Vol. I.

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FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 2.

BRAZILIAN MISSIONS.

A
MONTHLY BULLETIN
OF
MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

EDITED IN
SAO PAULO, BRAZIL,

AND PUBLISHED IN
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

Brazilian Missions.

VOL. I.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1888.

No. 2.

SOME friends of missions have provided the means for issuing a large edition of this number. It is sent, as was the January number, to many ministers, students and others in the hope that they will be sufficiently interested in the field which it represents, and the record of the Lord's work therein to desire also the succeeding numbers, and that they will remit to the publisher the small amount asked for an annual subscription, and also that they will commend the bulletin to others.

MANY Christians cherish but a languid interest in the foreign work of the church simply because they know so little about it. The unevangelized millions beyond our own land seem very remote from us; their appalling destitution is not thrust upon our attention. So it happens that from sheer indifference, multitudes of believers fail to inform themselves as to the progress of the gospel in papal, Mohammedan and heathen lands. They do not realize that they are living in an age of unparalleled opportunity, that the whole world is open, and that the standard of the Cross is advancing as never before since Pentecost. The aim of this and of similar periodicals is to lay the facts before God's people. Brazil is but a part, and comparatively a small part, of the world-wide

field, but sometimes it is better not to have too extended a sphere of vision; for vividness of impression, a concentration of attention is often necessary. If any reader of this monthly is led to a deeper sense of Brazil's great needs and to a better understanding of the wonderful advance which the Kingdom is making there, this cannot tend to narrow his sympathies. He will desire to know more of other lands also; and as his knowledge increases, so will his zeal be quickened, and he will learn to labor and pray that *all the world* may be won for Christ.

A DRAFT ON HOME.

TWO strangers met at the stamp window in the Sao Paulo post office. It was nearly 10 o'clock at night, and in a few minutes the mail would close for the home steamer.

One was sending a large package containing the manuscript for the first number of the *Bulletin*. The other glanced at the direction, and remarked that his letter, too, was for the same steamer, and showed the address of Mrs. —, of New York.

"That's my mother," said he, "and I am a New Yorker too."

He had been drinking heavily, and said, with a curse, that he wished he was out of the plagued country. "But I have married here and have children, and what can I do?" he added.

As the two dropped in their letters, he said half to himself, "There, I have sent the — thing, any way," and turning to his countryman with a surly laugh—"It was to tell my mother that I had just drawn on her for \$2,000, ten days after sight, through the English Bank. I guess she would rather have the letter without the draft."

Poor prodigal, far from his mother, and farther yet from his father's house! A mother's heart may beat, and her eyes grow dim with tears, but *the draft will be honored.*

And what will be the fate of the other draft—the one on the mother Church, that draft for sympathies and prayers for sons and for daughters?

We cannot wait to hear. Our need is pressing. And so we send herewith a second and a larger draft. And we draw *at sight.*

Opportunities are passing, open doors are closing, souls are perishing, and we *cannot* wait.

TEACHER WANTED.

IN our school at Sao Paulo we need at once a primary teacher, of sound sense and experience, acquainted with object-teaching and molding, to teach children and to train our young teachers in the work of managing children.

The school can pay her the usual salary of mission teachers. Apply, giving full particulars, to Rev. Arthur Mitchell D. D., 53 Fifth Ave., New York.

SINCE our last issue ten more adults have made profession in Conceição, and nine children have been baptized.

A PERTINENT QUESTION.

It was first addressed to the writer, but he passes it on to every reader as pertinent to each, and not impertinent to any.

"What was your father doing, that my father died, and never knew that there was such a book as the Bible?"

I could excuse the fathers by alleging that when they attempted to put the Bible in the hands of the last generation of Brazilians "the Book" was contraband.

But who will excuse *us*, if such a question is put to our children? It is in our power to bring the gospel in its fullness within reach of every one of the present generation in Brazil.

TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

A BOY of eight summers, a Brazilian, if nationality depends on birth-place, who is passing the winter amid the snows of Northfield, Mass., had his "Yankee" ambition fired by the "supplement" offering to canvassers for *Brazilian Missions* a premium of foreign stamps. He is already among the twenties, and has found that there is something better than stamps in the business. For a young man who read our January bulletin has called on his father to converse about consecrating his life to Brazil. We want a complete collection of boys and girls who will go and do likewise. Will you be one, dear boy and girl, who reads this?

"If we ask how it was that Paul made so much out of his life * * I think we may say it was the *enthusiasm of his love*, which took him out of himself in devotion to his great Master."—*J. F. Clarke.*

A FATHER'S PRAYERS.

IN the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, lives an old man, who for many years has been employed as colporteur by the British and Foreign Bible Society. He is a native of the Madeira Islands, whence he was expelled with other converts to Protestantism in 1846. After several years of wandering, four of which were spent in the Portuguese colony in Springfield, Ill., he was invited to Brazil to meet Dr. R. R. Kalley, who was just commencing his successful evangelical labors in the capital of the Empire. Ever since, he has been employed in distributing the word of God.

He has raised a large family, but his small salary, less than \$40 a month, has not admitted of his giving them more than a primary education. Three little boys remained at home; the oldest, Henrique, 12 years old, is a remarkably bright and promising child. His father had long hoped that the Lord whom he had served so faithfully would honor him by accepting the gift of this son for the ministry, but the way had not appeared. At last, in June, 1885, it seemed necessary that the boy should commence to earn his own living. The father tried and tried in vain to find a place for the boy in some business. Taking the failure as a sign that God had better things in store for his son, the old man decided to wait three months longer, and to spend the time in earnest prayer that God would provide the means to educate the boy.

In this same month, a young missionary was preparing to leave the United States to join the Presbyter-

ian mission in S. Paulo. The last Sabbath but one had arrived. An intimate friend of the family, a young man just commencing his business career, was a visitor in the cottage by the sea.

At bed-time the younger of the two called his friend aside, and handing him a roll of bills, said: "I feel that I *must* send this money with you to Brazil. I do not know why, but it has been on my mind all day, and the impulse is too strong to resist longer. It is rare that I carry so much cash when I travel, but yesterday I drew this to pay my tailor, and a series of unexpected interruptions kept me busy until the last moment before train time. Please take it with you and use as you think best."

The bills exchanged for gold, after a six weeks sailing voyage, landed with their custodian on Brazilian soil. A month later a special providence—the world would say a happy chance—let the new-comer into the secret of the old man's prayers, and it became plain what it was that kept pulling all day long at his friend's purse-strings that Sunday in America—the *very day* undoubtedly in which faith had determined to make its final effort.

The money sufficed for traveling expenses and two months' charges in the S. Paulo boarding-school. Before they had expired, more money was on hand, and ever since, though often from unexpected sources, and always unsolicited save by prayer, the means have been graciously supplied to continue the boy's education. And who doubts that they will be as long as needed?

But, Christian friends, there are scores of Brazilian boys, with every promise of becoming useful Christian men, if brought under the influence of our mission school, who have no praying fathers to secure them these advantages. Are there not some of *you* whom God has so blessed that you might supply the lack, sending the money, accompanied by earnest prayer that it might find a lad whom God has called to preach the Gospel to his countrymen?

FAITH CONQUERS.

THE following conversation, substantially, occurred in San Paulo near the end of last November.

Eugenio is a boy from a fishing settlement near Conceição do Itanhaen. Said he to his teacher :

"Will it be possible for my younger brother to come here to study next term? He is very anxious to do so."

"We should be delighted to have him," was the reply; "but unfortunately we have no funds for his support. The allowance of the Mission will all be needed for others."

He was encouraged, however, to believe that God could easily send the money needed; and the story of Henrique Jardin (which the reader will find in the preceding article) was told, to prove the power of prayer. He was urged to go home and tell the story and incite all to believing prayer.

Day before yesterday (January 11) came a letter dated November 21, from a Christian lady who, unsolicited, sends \$200 to "support a student" in our schools.

MR. ARTHINGTON'S OFFER.—The offer of £15,000, made by Mr. Robert Arthington, of Leeds, for the establishment of a mission to the Indians of North Brazil, has been alike declined by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, the London Mission Society, and the Baptist Missionary Society. The Free Church committee point out that the region Mr. Arthington is desirous to see entered upon is within reach of the Episcopalians, Moravians, Methodists, and American Presbyterians, who already occupy Central America.—*The Christian*, January 27.

Could Mr. Arthington do better than confide the administration of this fund to the *Synod of Brazil*, into which the several Presbyteries now existing in that Empire are to be received in August next? The Synod will be composed of nearly fifty native churches, scattered in the various provinces of the Empire, and ministered to by twenty foreign missionaries, and a growing native ministry, of which the twelve now acting as pastors and evangelists are the first-fruits.

MARIOLATRY.

IT is not a rare thing to meet in the interior towns, women of lovely character devoted to the Romish faith and observant of all its precepts. It is pitiful to see how these loving hearts have been taught to substitute Mary for Christ, and to lavish on her the devotion due to Him alone.

A favorite picture represents the Father and Son placing a crown on the Virgin's head, and the Holy Spirit as a dove descending upon her.

A current pamphlet of thirty pages, octavo, is filled with fabulous details of the Virgin's life.

We translate faithfully a portion.

After describing her resurrection and assumption, and crowning by the

three persons of the Trinity, the writer proceeds: "She was thus proclaimed Queen and Mistress of all creatures, with entire control, bestowed by divinity, over them all, so that all depends on her, and receive from her hands virtues, graces, being and preservation; graces not only natural, such as health, riches, rain, harvests and remedies; but also supernatural, as inspirations, aids and every gift: willing and commanding that nothing be granted or communicated to creatures save by the hands of the Lady, and that she be arbiter and mistress of all the wealth and treasures of God: 'For' (the words of the Lord are literally quoted) 'all our possessions are thine, as thou always wast ours; and therefore thou shalt reign with us for all eternity.'"

And this is the purest type of Romanism to be encountered in Brazil.

Does Brazil need missionaries? Judge ye; and no longer plead ignorance as an excuse for excluding the light of the Gospel from this sin-darkened Southern continent.

BREAD ON THE WATERS.

IN 1862 the writer gave to a Brazilian lad of sixteen a New Testament, "Pilgrim's Progress," and "Henry and his Bearer." The Testament was carried by its owner through the Paraguayan war, and has leavened his whole life. At present, he is principal of a school of boys and girls in his native city of Porto Alegre (capital of the Province of Rio Grande do Sul), where over one hundred pupils daily hear the Testament read. Its truths are

also set to song, and are carried from the school into many homes on the wings of gospel hymns. Cast thy bread on the waters.

THE JEWS.

IT was the night of the 8th of January, and the missionary awoke shortly after midnight, able to sleep no longer. The signs of great blessings to follow the week of Prayer, kept him awake to praise God for His goodness.

Suddenly, and quite contrary to his previous habits of thought, his heart went out in sympathy for "God's ancient people Israel," the "present awakening" among whom had been among the motives for thanksgiving mentioned by the Evangelical Alliance.

For perhaps half an hour he was moved to pray as never before in all his life, be it freely confessed, for the salvation of Israel according to the flesh.

Before noon, arrived a young emigrant to whom the address of the American school had been casually given on the train a few days before. He proved to be a Roumanian Jew, who left home a lad of ten, because of his father's rough treatment. He had been in Jerusalem, in Bethlehem, in Egypt with the English army and General Gordon, in London, and in New York. Only twenty-two years old, he speaks his native Roumanian, his father's native German, Modern Greek, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, English and Portuguese (the latter after only a month in Lisbon and two weeks in Brazil). Besides, he knows Hebrew.

On his way to New York, his vessel was shipwrecked, and on being rescued, he received a tract describing a shipwreck, by the Rev. Jacob Freshman, which resulted in his conversion to Christ. We take the liberty of extracting a few sentences from a letter dictated by him a few hours ago, to be sent for his "Baptist papers," as he called them. The ideas are all his, while their expression was conformed to the current idioms.

"Before leaving New York, I called for my certificate of baptism, but you were not at home. I was very sorry not to see either yourself or your wife, to pay my regards before leaving.

"I am so glad that, while the Lord tries us in temptations, in the hour of danger He is always at our side. I wanted to go from London to Rio Grande do Sul, but the ship was wrecked between the Azores and Lisbon. Praying to the Lord, He saved us by His hand.

"I cannot tell you how great is the fortune I have found in this religion. In my old Talmudic Hebrew religion I always used to expect the Messiah; but since I left my old belief I find the Messiah is always with me; and I am so glad that He sustains me in every need.

"I send regards to Mr. Gries, and to Mrs. Freshman and to yourself, and to all friends who inquire for me.

"Will you kindly send my certificate of baptism to the above address.

"Very Respectfully,

"Leon Feldman."

In Sao Paulo, with its 5,000 Germans and 18,000 Italians, and motley gathering of all nations, we have long needed one to speak to these people in their own tongues of the wonderful works of God.

Yesterday we started this young man, so admirably fitted for such work, with a few Bibles and Testaments. At dinner, he came back with a face radiant with joy. He had spent most of his time among eight or ten Arabs he had found in the market-place, and belonging to the little colony in this city. When they found he had the New Testament in Arabic, and spoke their own tongue, he says it was touching to see how eagerly they crowded around him. Some said they were already Christians. One young man bought the Testament, and left his merchandise, and came all the way a mile and a half, to our rooms, *because he would not believe that a man who had Bibles did not have tracts too.* He gave us the names of four or five, for which we shall send to Beyrout.

We had offered Leon the 20 per cent. commission allowed by the Bible Society, to whom the books belong. He refuses to take it, at least for the present.

"If you continue to give me board and lodging, sir, and a few clothes as I need them, I ask for no more. What is money? It only gets us into trouble. If I had not had \$200 saved in New York, I would never have gone away, and gotten into so much trouble. Now I never want to go away from the Church again. I want to stay here and do what work I can for God."

Young men of America, God does not depend on you for workers in this land. If you will not hear our cry and come over and help us, the loss of the grandest of earthly privileges will be yours, His will be the

glory of sending the reapers from other lands. Will you let the Jew and the Mahometan enter into the inheritance which by natural right belongs to you?

QUANTOS DEOSES HA?

"HOW many Gods are there?" So spake the teacher of our primary school in S. Paulo to her pupils.

"There are many," said a little lad.

"What, child. There is but one God. Who is God?"

"God is a man with arms outstretched upon a cross; and there are many. I have seen one in the House of Correction, where my father is a guard; and one in the Cathedral; and one at the Church of our Lady of the Rock."

The boy's logic was good, and the system which misled him is bad, very bad. Ex. 20:4, compare with Matt. 18:6.

DOES BRAZIL NEED MISSIONARIES?

MANY earnest Christians who are full of missionary zeal, fancy Catholic countries do not need missionaries, or at least that the need of pagan lands is so surpassingly greater that all efforts should be directed to them.

This is doubtless due to the fact that their ideas of Romanism come from their observations of the modified form in which they see it, surrounded by dominant Protestantism.

It seems impossible that any true Christian could see the moral and spiritual darkness which prevails in South America, the sad heritage of three centuries of Romanism, without

feeling that its people are as truly destitute of the gospel as any in the world.

The Christian traveler in Brazil finds that the illiterate classes (and 80 per cent. of the people are illiterate) are, as a rule, plunged in an idolatry little different from that of pagans. Images of the saints, the Virgin and the cross are true idols.

A few weeks ago a missionary entered a second-class car to find it full of slaves. He asked one of them who they were.

"We are slaves of Our Lady."

"Why, I did not know that Our Lady owned slaves," was the reply.

"Yes, she does. We belong to her; and *there she is*," pointing to an image two feet high, carried with the greatest reverence by a mulatto boy.

The illustration is chosen because recent and convenient. Scores of similar cases might be cited.

ROOM FOR SICK MEN.

BRAZIL lies in part under the equator. True. Its seaport towns are sometimes visited by yellow fever. Equally true.

But the usual inference that as a whole it is unhealthy, is far from correct.

The Empire is a big place--a little bigger than the United States, leaving out Alaska.

The provinces of Paraná, Santa Catharina, Rio Grande do Sul and the southern part of Sao Paulo lie wholly in the south temperate zone; while parts of the high table-land of Minas Geraes possess a climate of unrivaled salubrity. Caldas with its

hot springs, Lambary and Caxambú with their mineral waters, Campanha, Itajubá, Lavras and Canna Verde all resemble, in climate, Southern California more nearly than any other part of the United States.

Fourteen years ago, when Senhor Miguel Torres was ordained and sent to Caldas, he was thought to be in the last stages of consumption. To-day he is hale and hearty, and can point to five flourishing churches with a membership of three hundred as the fruit of his labor. So, if no more able-bodied men can be spared for Brazil, places can readily be found where the broken-down, by simply living Christ, could greatly aid in the work, while seeking recovery.

ROMISH TEACHERS' INSTRUCTIONS.

So early as 1681 "a compendium of Christian doctrine" in the Indian tongue was prepared by Romish missionaries in Brazil, and printed in Lisbon in parallel columns of Portuguese and Tupy, and reprinted by order of *His Royal Highness* in 1800. The following extract is a sample of the "Christian doctrine."

Master : How many places are there in the centre of the earth which serve for the abode of souls ?

Disciple : There are four. *Hell, Purgatory, Limbo of children, and Limbo of the Holy Fathers.*

M. What is Hell ?

D. It is a flaming, inextinguishable fire ; and a place most horrible of penal suffering, and eternal torments of devils and of those dying in mortal sin.

M. What is Purgatory ?

D. It is a great fire a little above Hell, in which are the holy souls (*almas santas*) of those who died in grace, giving satisfaction for their sins for which they had not fully *satisfied* in this world.

M. What is the limbo of children ?

D. It is a dark cavern above purgatory in which are the children who died without baptism.

M. What is the limbo of the Holy Fathers, or bosom of Abraham ?

D. It is a cavern above the limbo of children, in which were anciently the souls of the Holy Fathers, before Christ our Lord took them out of it.

It may be some relief from the gloom of this *quartette* of places—the four gospels of Rome—to know, as I learn from a marginal note of some former reader of the copy now in my possession, that the fourth place is now vacant and "*to let.*" We commend it as a summer resort to any "fathers" who think that we ought not to have missions in Romish countries.

G. W. C.

Brazilian Missions.

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Subscriptions may be sent to Rev. Donald McLaren, D. D., 372 Lewis Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. Correspondence for the editors should be directed to "Brazilian Missions," Caixa do Conreo, 14 Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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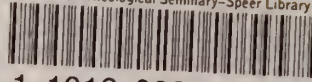
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